

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for dispensing liquid reagent onto a microscope slide bearing a biological specimen, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 providing a microscope slide bearing a biologic specimen;
 - providing a liquid reagent cartridge comprising a liquid reagent reservoir and a liquid reagent metering chamber;
 - 10 inserting said liquid reagent cartridge into a reagent cartridge frame, said reagent cartridge frame having receptacles for more than one liquid reagent cartridge;
 - positioning said reagent cartridge frame onto a platform;
 - moving said liquid reagent cartridge and said microscope slide relative to each other so that said liquid reagent cartridge is positioned approximately above said microscope slide;
 - 15 causing an actuator to act upon said liquid reagent cartridge so as to dispense liquid reagent;
 - stopping the actuator from acting to dispense liquid reagent, and causing reagent to re-fill said metering chamber by flowing from said liquid reagent reservoir; and
 - 20 removing said liquid reagent cartridge frame with the liquid reagent cartridge from said platform.
 2. A liquid reagent dispensing assembly with a removable reagent tray for dispensing liquid reagents onto microscope slides comprising:
 - 25 a slide platform capable of holding at least one microscope slide;
 - a reagent platform positioned approximately above said slide platform and being capable of movement under computer control;

liquid reagent contained in a liquid reagent cartridge, said cartridge comprising a liquid reagent reservoir and a liquid reagent metering chamber;
a liquid reagent cartridge frame having a plurality of receptacles for holding liquid reagent cartridges, said frame being removable from said reagent platform;
5 an electrically controlled actuator capable of acting upon said liquid reagent cartridge so as to cause liquid reagent to be dispensed onto said microscope slide.

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